

July 7, 1969

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Memo To: [redacted]

On Monday, June 30, I accepted delivery on the special microscope from the Special Products Division [redacted]. In my opinion, the instrument met the specifications set forth by the sub-contractor although I was quite disappointed that the company did not express more concern for the ultimate purpose of this special device. The question you raised regarding the variation of IP distance as a function of convergence angle was an obvious oversight on their part. As you suggested, they agree they could make up a table describing this relationship, but were very reluctant to do so since it was not part of the original contract. My feeling was that I would not have much confidence in such a table since they could not check it empirically. I feel we can do better by making our own measurements as needed during the experiments.

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I also feel compelled to comment regarding the contribution of [redacted] to this project. Although [redacted] a well-known researcher with both a background and interest in this problem is just down the hall, he had no knowledge of this project until I asked him to look at the microscope last week. Apparently, the company followed the contractual conditions literally and although these were obviously satisfied and the microscope appears to be well made mechanically, their lack of initiative in utilizing their own resources should be noted.

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I delivered the microscope personally to the [redacted] While in Seattle, all of our time was spent on the forthcoming [redacted] experiments. Topics for discussion included the design of the experiment, selection of subjects, stimulus material, modification of the microscope for use with the [redacted] optometer, use of the laser method, etc. During these discussions, it became apparent that all contingencies cannot be accounted for, and that our program should be designed to be flexible. It is likely that the results of the initial experimentation may suggest lines of research which cannot be anticipated at this time.

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I think it is fortunate that [redacted] is available during the experiments, not only because of his activities with respect to the laser optometer, but also because his age is more typical of the relevant PI population. With respect to [redacted] participation in this project, the question should be raised as to payment for his services. My feeling is that in addition to actual travel expenses, he should be paid at the approved technical help rate only for his time spent off-campus. Since he is working on this problem for his thesis, I would not propose to pay him for work done on campus unless this would clearly be beyond the scope of his thesis, and involved applications of unique interest to the sponsor. If this policy does not meet with your approval, please let me know.

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[redacted] has also been experimenting with the laser technique. Taking advantage of his experimental setup, I have used the [redacted] diopter telescope furnished by [redacted] and ascertained that even with the most primitive arrangement, the laser method is highly accurate to .2D and probably accurate to .1D.

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Declass Review by NIMA/DOD

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While enroute to the West Coast, I had the opportunity to go over the literature from the [redacted]. There is no question that when given a choice, microscopists will prefer from one to five D of accommodation. Their results included some experiments on the effect of convergence angle which were positive, i.e., the greater the convergence angle the more accommodation chosen. However, their study was not extensive in this respect and the task utilized by the subjects was not as appropriate to the sponsor as the one planned for the [redacted] studies. Their work confirms the need for this research in the context of the sponsor's problem, provides access to the most appropriate reference in the literature, and the opportunity for cross checking some results. I am planning to summarize the article as it will not seem necessary to translate it word for word. I will also attempt to contact the author, [redacted] and his advisor [redacted] this summer.

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*Bob - You should
also try to see them added
justification for the trip?*

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HWL/jm
cc: [redacted]

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Latest names for Moscow conference:

